



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region



Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Melinda Becker   
Section Chief, Regional Programs

DATE: May 5, 2006

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE *WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION* TO INCORPORATE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR METALS AND SELENIUM IN THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER AND IMPAIRED TRIBUTARIES

On July 13, 2006, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to reduce metals and selenium loading to the San Gabriel River and its impaired tributaries. Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and complementary to the proposal may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth of discussions. The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendment after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Copies of the proposed resolution, Basin Plan amendment, staff report, CEQA checklist, and Notice of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa.html>. Please contact Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691 for additional information.

*A Public Hearing will be held on July 13, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.  
at the City of Santa Clarita Council Chambers  
23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, California 91355*

Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Regional Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed. In order to review and to assess comments, the Regional Board staff must receive written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2006. Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region  
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013

ATTN: Jenny Newman

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



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*Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*



### Background

Regional Board staff has identified the San Gabriel River Estuary, San Jose Creek, San Gabriel River Reach 2, and Coyote Creek as impaired due to exceedances of California Toxics Rule (CTR) criteria for metals and selenium. The goal in incorporating the TMDL is to protect beneficial uses impaired by metals and selenium, including aquatic life and water supply, and to achieve the CTR criteria set to protect these uses.

The proposed TMDL sets numeric targets for impaired reaches based on CTR criteria. Separate numeric targets are developed for dry and wet weather. The Estuary is impaired for copper in dry weather, San Jose Creek is impaired for selenium in dry weather, San Gabriel River Reach 2 is impaired for lead in wet weather, and Coyote Creek is impaired for copper, lead, and zinc in wet weather. Dry-weather targets are based on chronic CTR criteria and wet-weather targets are based on acute CTR criteria. Allocations are developed for upstream reaches and tributaries that drain to impaired reaches.

The source analysis for the proposed TMDL shows that dry-weather runoff and water reclamation plants (WRPs) contribute metals loading in dry weather, but the dominant source of annual metals loading occurs in storm water runoff during wet weather. Two power plants that discharge once-through cooling water are the dominant source of dry-weather flow and metals loading to the Estuary.

Both permitted and non-permitted sources of potential metals loading in the watershed are identified and assigned allocations in the proposed TMDL. The waste load allocations for the non-storm water NPDES permits (including power plants and water reclamation plants) will be translated into permit limits upon their issuance, renewal, or reopening. The general industrial storm water permits are required to achieve compliance with interim waste load allocations within 4 years and final waste load allocations within 9 years. The general construction storm water permittees will conduct BMP effectiveness studies within 6 years and implement Regional Board approved BMPs within 8 years to meet their wet-weather allocations. The proposed TMDL requires the MS4 and Caltrans storm water permittees to achieve their waste load allocations in prescribed percentages of the watershed, achieving dry-weather allocations in the entire watershed within 10 years and wet-weather allocations in the entire watershed within 15 years. The Regional Board may extend the allowable implementation schedule if an integrated resources approach is employed and permittees demonstrate the need for an extended schedule. The implementation plan includes an evaluation of a combination of non-structural and structural best management practices (BMPs) that could be used to achieve compliance with the storm water waste load allocations and an evaluation of several strategies to achieve compliance with the power plant waste load allocations. It is expected that the water reclamation plants and most other minor and general NPDES permits will meet their waste load without the installation of pollution control equipment.